V. *Part of a Letter from* Dr. Cyprianus *to Dr.* Sylveſtre, *giving an Account of a Child born with a large Wound in the Breaſt, ſuppoſed to proceed from the force of Imagination.*

AMongſt ſome other Extraordinary Accidents which have offered themſelves to me, ſince my coming home, there is one, I think, is worth your knowing.

It is, that a Lady is brought to bed of a Girl, with a Wound in her Breaſt above four Fingers long; which obliquely from the top downwards, from the *Sternum* to the Left ſide, ſtretched it ſelf over the whole Breaſt. Being ſent for there, I found not only the Wound outwardly in the Skin, but after a nearer examination I perceived, that it not only penetrated to the *Muſculi intercoſtales*, but that it was at leaſt an Inch broad, hollow under the Fleſh round about the Wound: Beſides, that there was a Contuſion with a little Swelling (Red and Blew, as is uſed to be in Contuſions) at the lower part of the Wound in the inſide.

Before I go on farther with this Hiſtory, firſt I will tell you, this Lady had an eaſie and natural Delivery, and that it was a natural birth, and that the Child came into the World without any force, ſo that conſequently it got not this Wound in its Birth, but was occaſioned by ſtrength of Imagination, about two Months before the Mother was gone to Bed, by chance ſhe heard a Report, that a Man had murthered his Wife, and with a Knife had given her a great Wound in her Breaſt, at which Relation ſhe changed, but not exceſſively.

Now my Opinion is, That the Child at that very moment that the Mother was affrighted, received the Wound in its Mothers Body, becauſe that the Wound was very ſordid; and the inſide as well as the outſide beſet with Slime, proceeding from the Water wherein the

the Child is uſed to lye in its Mothers Womb, and alſo very like a Wound received long ſince. But now which is moſt worthy of Reflection is, that the Wound after three or four Days Dreſſing, begining to come to *Suppuration* and *Mundification*, began to bleed very faſt with Streams when dreſſed and wiped; and it plainly, in all its Circumſtances, was very like a freſh cut Wound; only that the ends of the Cut Veſſels were ſo covered with Slime, that the Circulation could not force the Blood through it. Beſides, That the Contuſion fore-mentioned, while that the Wound was healing, began too to come to Suppuration, and made a gathering, and drew down the Matter and Blood towards the Back; for the Scituation of the Child was ſuch, that the Matter could not aſcend to the Wound; out of which Swelling, when it was open'd, Matter and Blood run out in the ſame manner we uſed to ſee in a Contuſion made ſome Days, and that wherein this Wound is moſt like to a freſh Wound is, that it being ſimply handled as a new received Wound, it Cured; ſo that I judged this Wound wholly, even at Birth of the Child in that State (as I ſuppoſe it was) at that very moment when the Mother was terrified, except that it was covered with Slime as above-ſaid.

To prevent a queſtion, which undoubtedly you will ask, why this Wound, two Months before the Birth in the Mothers Body received did not Putrefie, and the Contuſion that was beſides that, did not preſently come to change into an *Abſceſſe*; I will give my Conſiderations therein, and ſay, that this Accident remained in the ſame Condition, becauſe no Air could come to it, and the Child lay all over in its Water, which has a preſerving Virtue, inſomuch that it excludes the Air; to which, to prove, I could joyn here ſeveral Examples. *Yours, &c.*

VI. Ac-